Uttar Pradesh. In addition, FCI has also advertised for creation of conventional godowns on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis through Private Sector participation at 78 locations involving 5.88 lakh MTs of storage capacity in 14 States.

(c) Foodgrains are being allotted to the States/UTs from the Central Pool for TPDS, Defence/Paramilitary forces, various Welfare Schemes including Food for Work Programmes etc. Besides, the Government has taken various steps to liquidate the surplus stocks of foodgrains and to improve the storage facilities. These include, *inter alia*, enhanced allocation of foodgrains under BPL, supply of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes open sale of wheat at reduced prices, reduction in Central Issue Prices, export of wheat and rice, construction of new godowns and hiring of godowns for storage of foodgrains. Foodgrains have also been made available to drought affected States, free of cost, for employment generation programmes. The National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced by the Government also seeks to harness the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, to create storage capacity on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1231. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by Government for the poorest of the poor people in the country;

(b) the details of the criteria fixed for giving benefits to the poor people in the country;

(c) whether Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Gram Panchayat for monitoring and effective

implementation of the said scheme for welfare of the people in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by the Prime Minister on 25.12.2000 contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidised rates of Rs. 2 per kg. of wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. of rice. One crore Antyodaya families constitute about 15.33% of the BPL families in the country. The Government of India has requested the State Governments/UTs to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst the number of BPL families within the State/UT. They have been requested to finalise the list of Antyodaya families by involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas and local bodies in the urban areas.

(c) Public Distribution System including the Antyodaya Anna Yojana is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and make arrangement for distribution of the PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

(d) Does not arise.